윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yan

8

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

CHEONG PYUNG
JO SA SAM SOO

—BY LEE BAEK

쏘아아아

FOOSHAAA

HE HAS A FIGURE LIKE A CLOUD,
WITH A FLOWER FACE.
IN ADDITION TO THE SPRING BREEZE
ON THE RAIL,
THE DEW IS DENSE TODAY.

EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT A CUCKOO BIRD UPON MOUNT GUN-OK,
SHOULD I GO THERE UNDER THE MOON TO MEET MY LOVER?
JUST LIKE THE SCENT OF A DROP OF DEW AT THE END OF A BRANCH,
THE RAIN CLOUD AT MOUNT MOO SEEMS ANXIOUS.
BRIDE of the WATER GOD
story and art by
Mi-Kyung Yun
translation
Julia Kwon Gombos
lettering
Andy Grossberg & Studio Cutie
WHO IS IT THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU IN HAN PALACE?
EVEN THOSE THOUGHTS MAKE ME FEEL PITIFUL.
윤미경
8

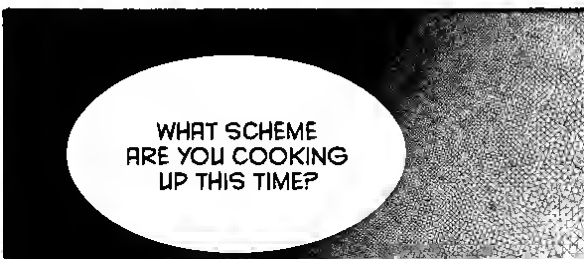
FEELINGS OF WARMTH FROM
YOUR LOVER
ARE REFLECTED TENFOLD
IN A FLOWER,
AND YOUR LOVER ALWAYS
SMILES BACK AT YOU.
IT IS SAID THAT ALL GRUDGES
GO AWAY WITH THE
SPRING BREEZE.
I'LL COME AND WRAP AROUND YOU
LIKE THE RAILING OF THE
CHIM HYANG PAGODA.

.....
ALL THIS TIME, AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO GREET ME?
FATHER...

FATHER... WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WAIT-- I DON'T EVEN NEED TO ASK.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO *NAKBIN?*


WHAT SCHEME ARE YOU COOKING UP THIS TIME?

JEEZ, CALM DOWN, HUYE! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. NOT YET.
ALL I DID WAS SOW A FEW *SEEDS OF TROUBLE*...
...AND THE HUMANS DID THE REST.
HAVEN'T YOU *REALIZED* BY NOW?! HUMANS CAN BE SO *UGLY!*

THE GOD OF THE HARVEST STILL HAS FAITH IN HUMANS, BUT HE'S FAR TOO NAIVE.
THERE'S *NO* HOPE FOR HUMANITY. ALL I'M TRYING TO DO IS HASTEN THEIR NATURAL SELF-DESTRUCTION A LITTLE BIT.
LOOK AT WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO YOU. DO YOU STILL WANT TO DEFEND THEM?
YOU HELPED THEM. BUT WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU TWO? THEY TURNED AGAINST YOU WHEN THEY GOT IN TROUBLE.

FWAPP
YOU'RE THE UGLY ONE!
THEY'RE JUST WEAK, NOT EVIL.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TRAMPLE THEM DOWN, JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE POWER.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP. I'LL RESCUE NAKBIN ON MY OWN.
KREEE
GOODBYE.
I GUESS THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I SEE YOU... YOUR MAJESTY.
BTAM
.....

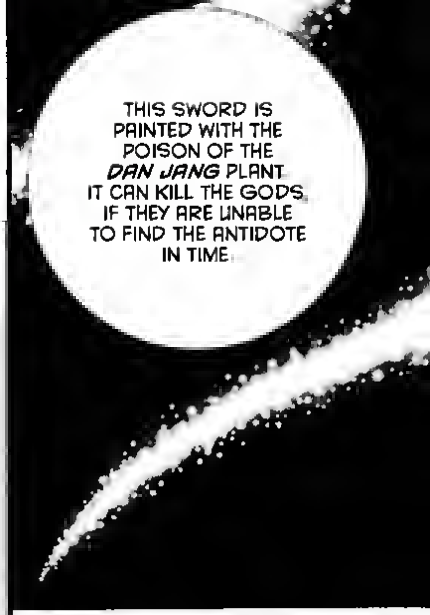
HE IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM YOU. ARE YOU *SURE* THAT HE'S YOUR SON?
HWSH
DID YOU GET THE WORK DONE?
OF COURSE. I ALWAYS TAKE PRIDE IN MY WORK. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO PERSUADE HIM?

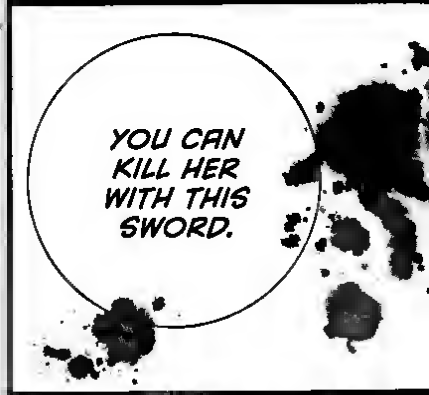
NO NEED TO WORRY. HE REACTED EXACTLY AS I EXPECTED, BECAUSE HE'S *NOT* LIKE ME.
NAKBIN, THOUGH, IS RATHER LIKE ME. SHE'S *A LOT* LIKE ME.
MOK-RANG-NIM...*

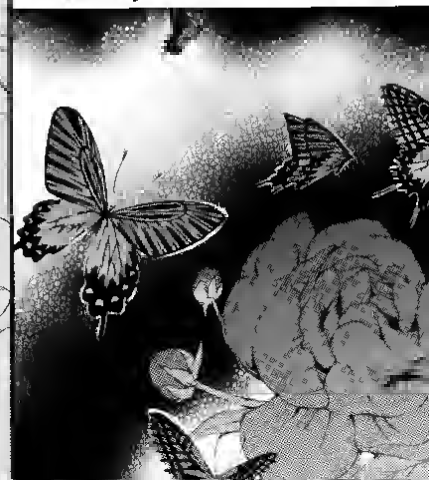
***NIM:** KOREAN HONORIFIC.

...PEOPLE SAY THAT NAKBIN'S FATHER IS A GOD. THAT MEANS SHE IS NOT A NORMAL HUMAN... SO IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE FOR US TO KILL HER?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. DON'T WORRY.
I AM THE *SHAMAN.* I HAVE A PLAN.
MAYBE IT'S JUST A RUMOR-- BUT WHAT IF IT'S *TRUE?*
LADY MOK-RANG ...?

I CAME HERE TO HELP YOU WITH THE WATER GOD'S ORDER. PLEASE TAKE THIS SWORD.


THIS SWORD IS PAINTED WITH THE POISON OF THE *DAN JANG* PLANT. IT CAN KILL THE GODS IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO FIND THE ANTIDOTE IN TIME.


YOU CAN KILL HER WITH THIS SWORD.



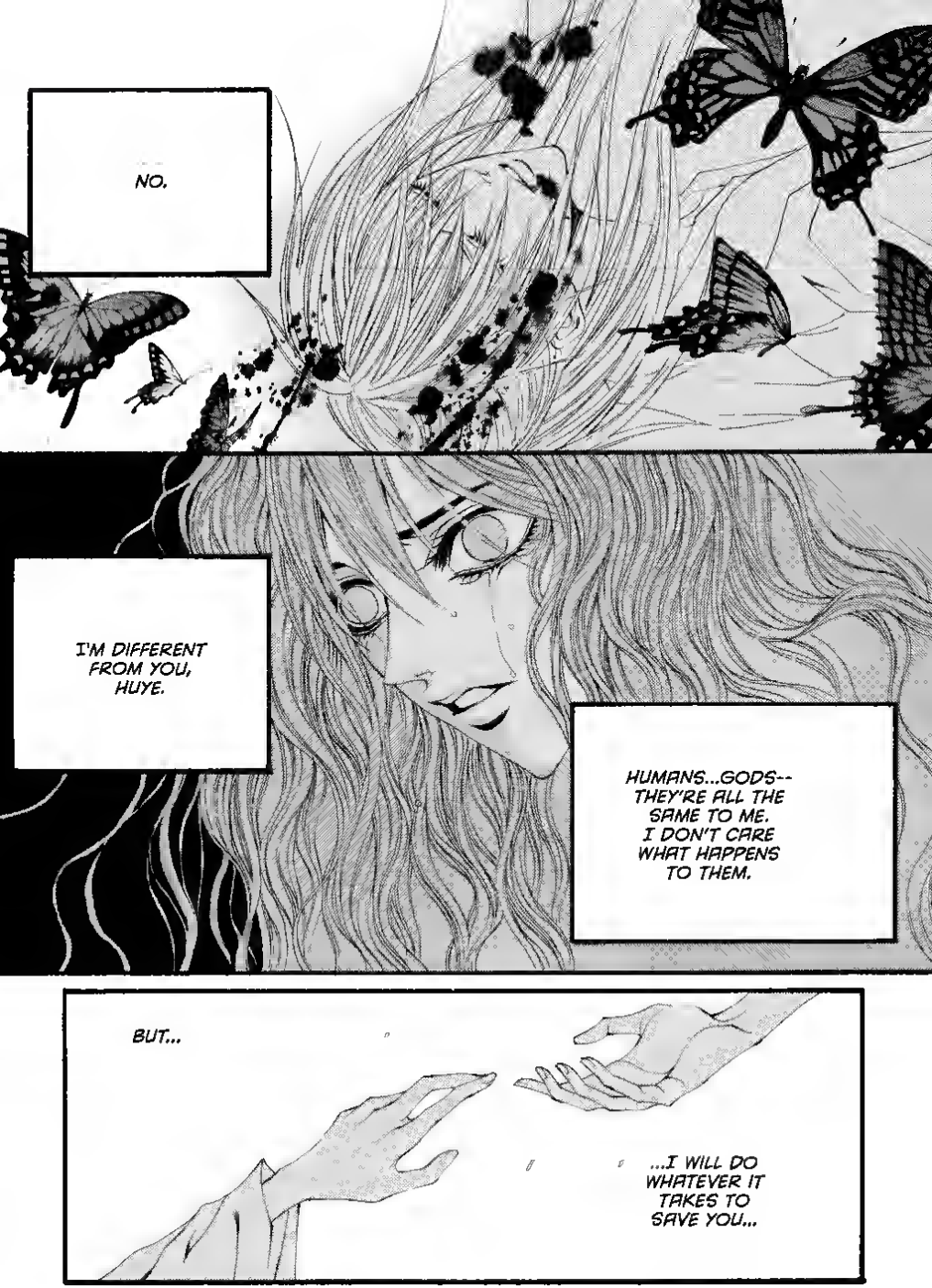
SWOOSH
DON'T BLAME US. WE'RE JUST DOING WHAT WE WERE TOLD TO DO.
HWIK
IF YOU WANT TO BLAME SOMEONE, BLAME THE GOD!
WHHSH

SPLATTCH
THAT WAS CLOSE...
SORRY I WAS LATE, NAKBIN...

WHAT HAPPENED? ISN'T HUYE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE *NEIGHBORING* VILLAGE?
I HAVE NO CLUE. WHAT THE--? HUH? HEY, WAIT! WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU?* HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?
THCH-
SPITTCH
HRAAAGGK!!
EEYAAUGH!!

지벅
KTOK
지벅
KTOK
NO...
HWYE...
WAKE UP...
NAKBIN.

HUYE COULDN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU AND THE HUMANS, AFTER ALL.
I CAN SAVE HIM.
"NAKBIN, PLEASE DON'T HATE THE HUMANS..."
DON'T YOU WANT TO SAVE HIM?

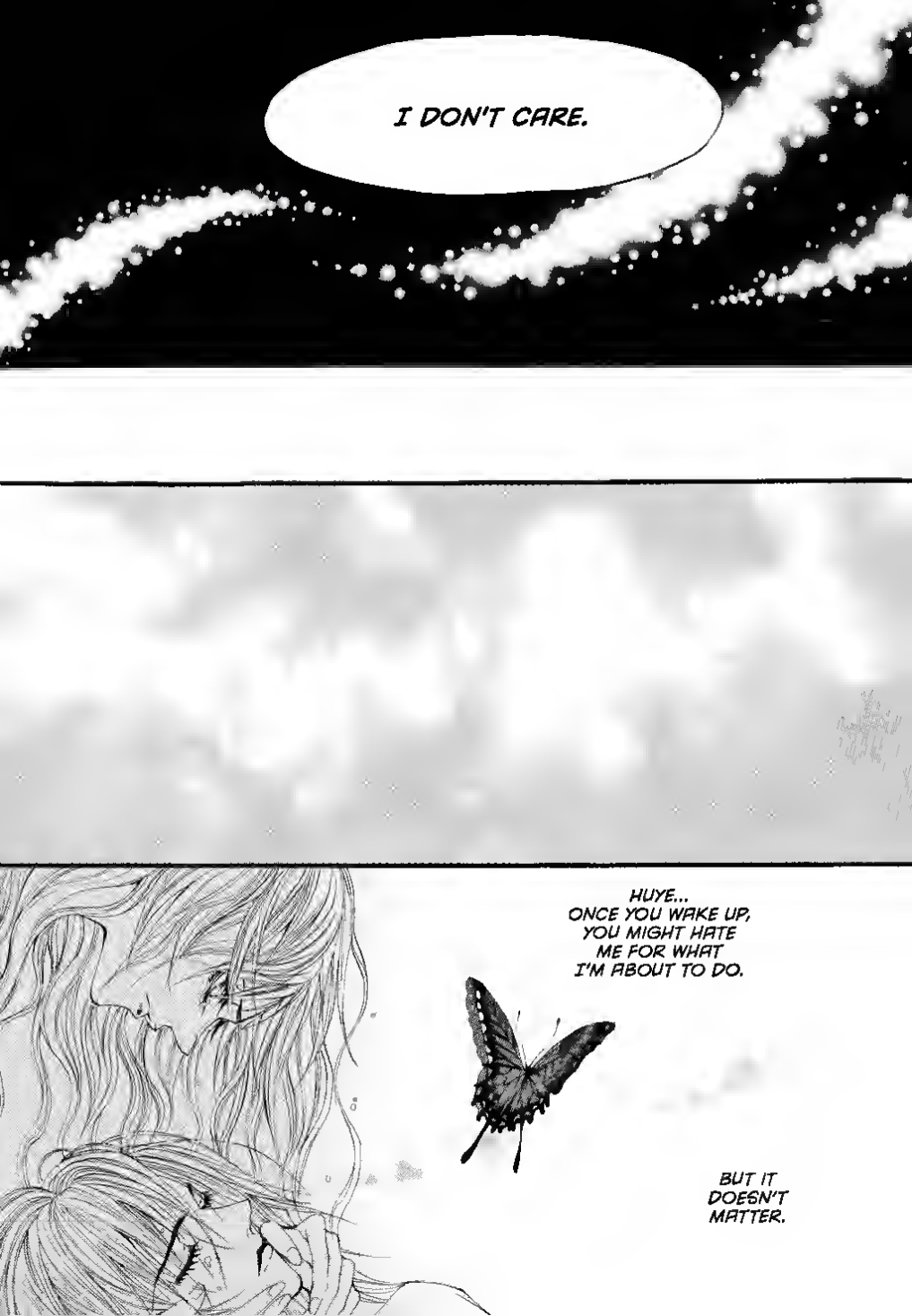

NO.
I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU, HUYE.
HUMANS...GODS-- THEY'RE ALL THE SAME TO ME. I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM.
BUT...
...I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SAVE YOU...

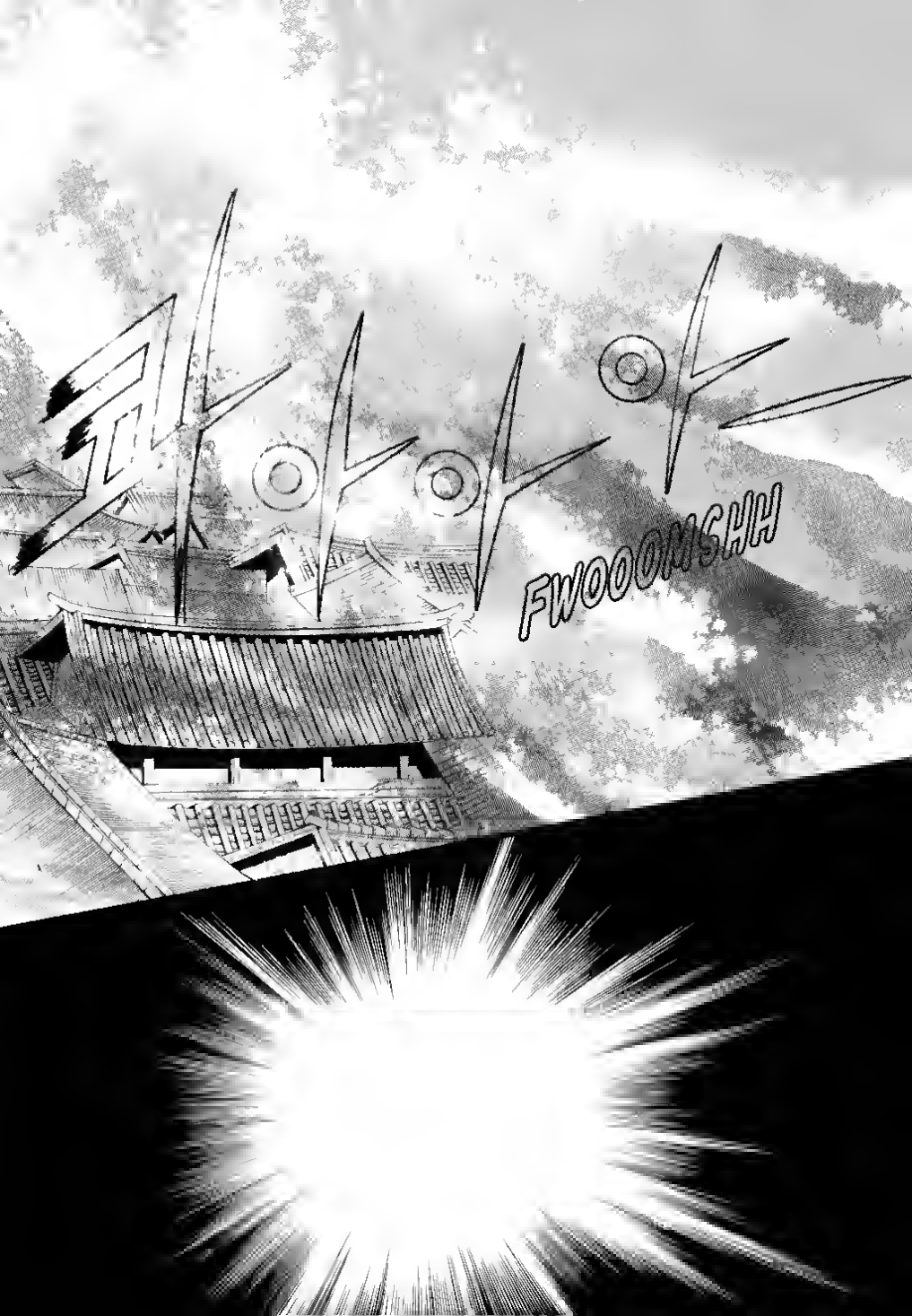
SO...
FATHER, PLEASE SAVE HUYE.

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

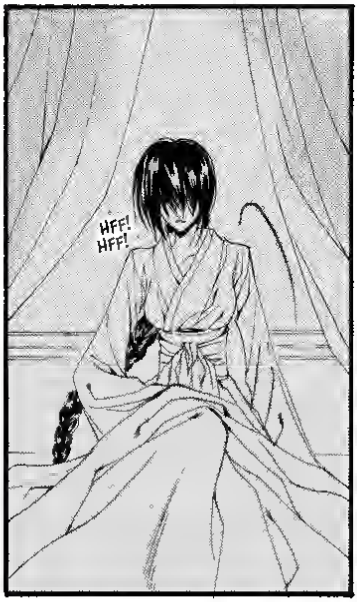
IF YOU PROMISE THAT YOU WILL DO *ANYTHING* I ASK, THEN I WILL SAVE HIM.

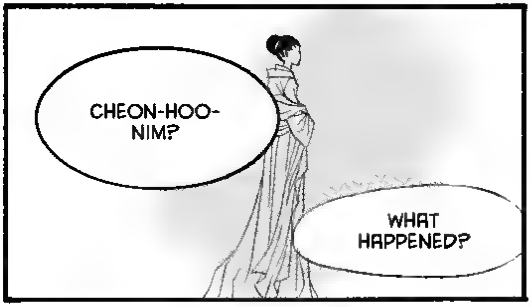
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
DESTROY EVERYTHING IN THIS TOWN. DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING STANDING.
BUT HUYE ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THAT... DON'T YOU MIND?
.....

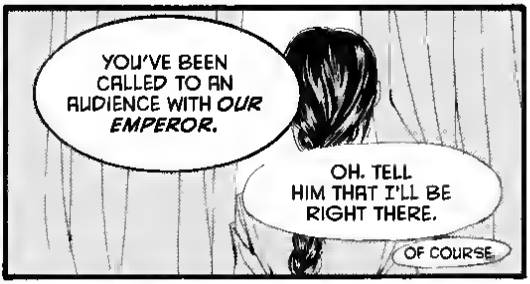

I DON'T CARE.
HUYE...
ONCE YOU WAKE UP,
YOU MIGHT HATE
ME FOR WHAT
I'M ABOUT TO DO.
BUT IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.


FWOOOMSHH

WHA--?


HFF! HFF!


CHEON-HOO-NIM?
WHAT HAPPENED?


YOU'VE BEEN CALLED TO AN AUDIENCE WITH *OUR EMPEROR.*
OH. TELL HIM THAT I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
OF COURSE.

I KEEP HAVING THIS NIGHTMARE...

THE HORRIBLE GRIEF AND ANGER I HAVE FELT...

YOUR MAJESTY.
DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME?
FWSH
YES, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED YOU TO DO, MOK-RANG.

HA, HA! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CALLED BY THAT NAME FOR A WHILE. HAVE YOU?
I AM JUST *CHEON-HOO* NOW, YOUR MAJESTY.

THIS IS...
...A *MAGIC LILY*, ISN'T IT?
PLEASE BE CAREFUL...

...BECAUSE THAT IS *NOT* A MAGIC LILY.
IT LOOKS SO *SIMILAR* THAT ANYONE COULD EASILY BE CONFUSED.
THAT PLANT'S CALLED THE *RED SPIDER LILY.*
IT LOOKS A *LOT* LIKE THE MAGIC LILY, AS THE PETAL AND THE LEAF CANNOT REACH EACH OTHER...
...BUT THE RED SPIDER LILY CARRIES WITHIN IT A DEADLY TOXIN, SO YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.

ISN'T THAT INTERESTING?
THEY LOOK SO ALIKE, BUT THEY'RE SO VERY DIFFERENT.
IT IS EASY TO PRETEND, BUT ONE'S *TRUE NATURE* WILL ALWAYS BE REVEALED IN TIME.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, THIS FLOWER IS MUCH LIKE YOU, *YEO-WA-NIM.*

BOTH OF YOU WORRY ABOUT BEING *DETECTED* BY SOMEONE... DISCOVERED...
HEH HEH!
DON'T YOU FEEL THAT THIS FLOWER IS PERFECT FOR YOU?
HWSH
SHUT UP!
WAPP
WELL, THEN-- I GUESS YOU DON'T LIKE THIS FLOWER, AFTER ALL.

GET OUT OF MY WAY. NOW.
JUST BECAUSE HAEAEK IS A LITTLE DRUNK ON HIS MEDICINE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TIME TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
VZZZNNN
...BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE'S NOTHING I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT, BECAUSE MURA'S POTION IS PERFECT.

THIS IS THE POTION I MADE WITH *YO-CHO WEED*.
WHOEVER DRINKS THIS POTION WILL EITHER FALL IN LOVE WITH A PERSON-- OR HATE THAT PERSON TO THE DEATH.
SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT THIS WEED IS FROM A GODDESS WHO HAD NO LOVE IN HER LIFE.
I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS, BUT IT WAS *HIS MAJESTY'S REQUEST* TO HELP YOU. I'M DOING WHAT WAS ASKED OF ME.
IF THE POTION WORKS, WHY HAVEN'T *YOU* USED IT? I KNOW THAT YOU LOVE HABAEK, TOO!
IT ONLY BRINGS MOMENTS OF FANTASY.
IT'S NOT A POTION THAT WILL BRING YOU TRUE LOVE.

HMPH! SUCH RUBBISH.
NAKBIN?
HABAEK!

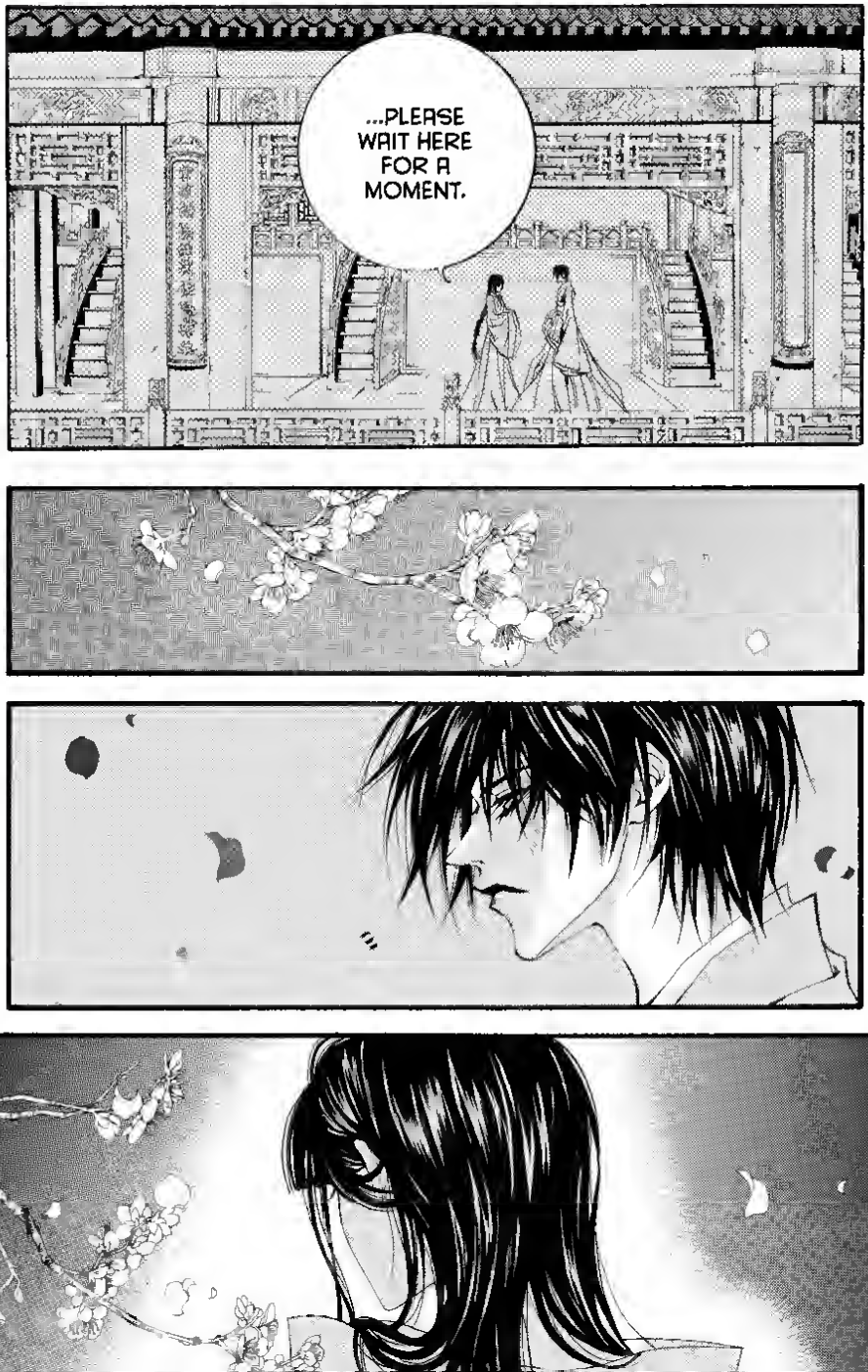
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE IS MINE.
OH, UH... NOTHING.
I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.

HABAEK-NIM.
HERE YOU ARE. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU HAVE A VISITOR. HE CLAIMS TO BE A FRIEND OF YOURS.
HE'S REQUESTING TO SEE YOU. HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO HANDLE THIS?
HMM... I'M NOT EXPECTING ANYBODY. WHO CAN IT BE?
I CAN ASK HIM TO LEAVE.

NO.
I WILL MEET HIM.
THIS WAY, PLEASE
THEN I WILL LEAD THE WAY...
HABAEK...

...I WANT TO GO WITH YOU.
NO. STAY HERE.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

HABAEK-
NIM...


...PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT.

HABAEK-
NIM...?

PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR MAKING YOU WAIT SO LONG.
CHEON-HOO.
휘익
FWSH
HABAEK-NIM?

WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

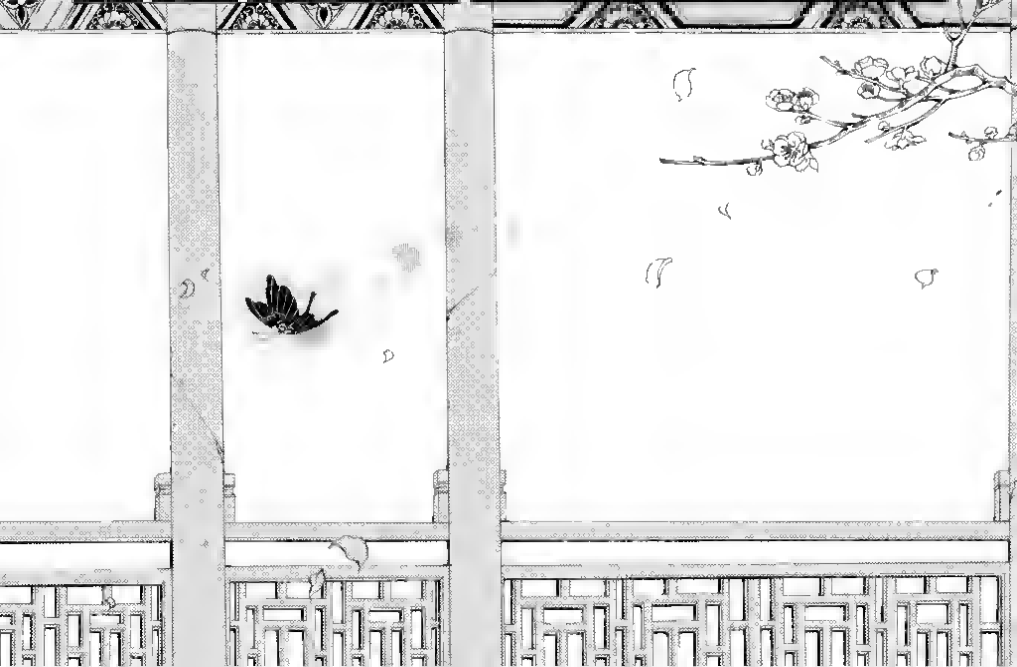
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE OVER THERE, BUT SHE DISAPPEARED.

SORRY. I GUESS I IMAGINED IT.

COME THIS WAY, PLEASE.

IT TOOK ME SOME TIME. SINCE HE IS AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR, PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT I HAD TO BE CAREFUL...

휙
WSH

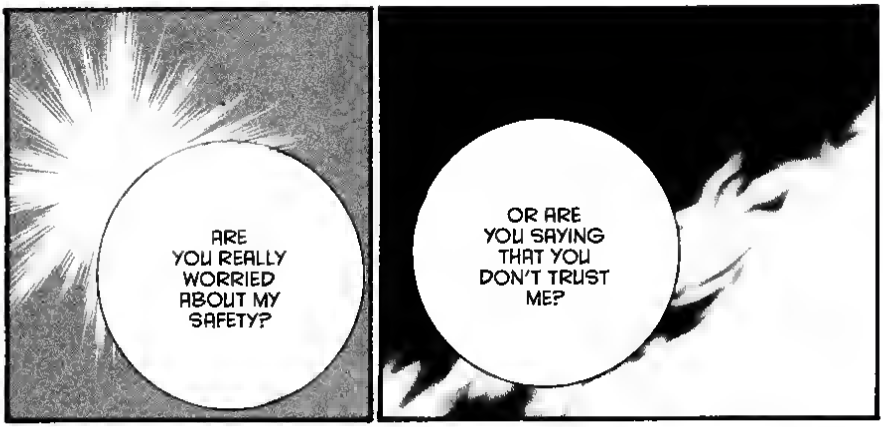


THIS ROOM IS SECURE. GO INSIDE, PLEASE.
끼이익
KREEEK

!!
HEY, HABAEK!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH JUST TO SEE YOU?!

NOW, PLEASE EXPLAIN TO HER HOW DEEP OUR FRIENDSHIP RUNS.
IS HE YOUR FRIEND?
UH... NO. I DON'T KNOW THIS PERSON.
헉
HWIK
HEY, YOU! WAIT!
YOHEE ASKED ME TO COME HERE!
멈칫
FREEZE

SHE'S WORRIED THAT YOU MAY HAVE LOST SOME OF YOUR *MEMORIES*. SHE ASKED ME TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE DOING OKAY.
.....
I'M FINE. MY MEMORIES ARE FINE.
EXCUSE US FOR A MINUTE. THERE'S SOMETHING THE TWO OF US NEED TO TALK ABOUT.
WELL, WE'RE NOT SURE ABOUT HIS IDENTITY...
...AND YOUR SAFETY IS MY PRIORITY.


ARE YOU REALLY WORRIED ABOUT MY SAFETY?
OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU DON'T TRUST ME?

...I UNDERSTAND. PLEASE FORGIVE ME, HABAEK-NIM.

KTAK
.....
HOW *BRAVE* OF YOU, *BIRYEOM.*

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
YOU'RE ON THE WANTED LIST AS A *REBEL*. HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET IN HERE ON YOUR OWN?!
DON'T WORRY. I CAME HERE WITH *MURA*.
MURA? WHY DID SHE COME *HERE*?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE SHE'S LOOKING FOR YOU, LIKE ME.
BY THE WAY, I DIDN'T COME HERE JUST BECAUSE OF YOHEE.
IN FACT, I SAW *HIS MAJESTY* THE NIGHT SOAH DISAPPEARED.

I'M SURE THAT THE EMPEROR WAS HOLDING SOAH.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS EARLIER, BUT YOU HAD ALREADY LEFT SUGUK.

YOHEE MENTIONED HER, AND NOW YOU... WHY DOES THIS *SOAH* PERSON KEEP COMING UP...?
WHO THE HELL IS SHE?
?!
STRANGE... HE LOST ALL OF HIS MEMORIES OF SOAH... THAT WOMAN MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS.
IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT YOHEE SAID...

I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH OF THE STORY IS TRUE, BUT HE DID LOSE ALL MEMORIES OF SOAH.
BUT WHAT BOTHERS ME THE MOST...
...IS THAT THE EMPEROR DEFINITELY KNEW I WAS WATCHING HIM.

COULD THAT HAVE BEEN PART OF HIS PLAN?
EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THAT, HE JUST LET ME GO. WHY?
HABAEK.

I HAVE ONE MORE THING TO SAY--
WAIT!
HABAEK? WHAT'S WRONG?
WKAMM

?!
YOU'RE THE ONE... A MOMENT AGO...
SOAH?!
!!
WHAT?

!!
HABAEK-- IT'S HER! YOU LOST YOUR MEMORIES OF HER!

FLINCH
움찔
LOST...
MEMORIES...?
탓
SWISH
휘익
HWIK
HEY!
WAIT!
WAIT!

I TOLD YOU TO WAIT!
FAPP

SHINNG
PLEASE LET HER GO, HABAEK-NIM.

"Who the hell is she?"

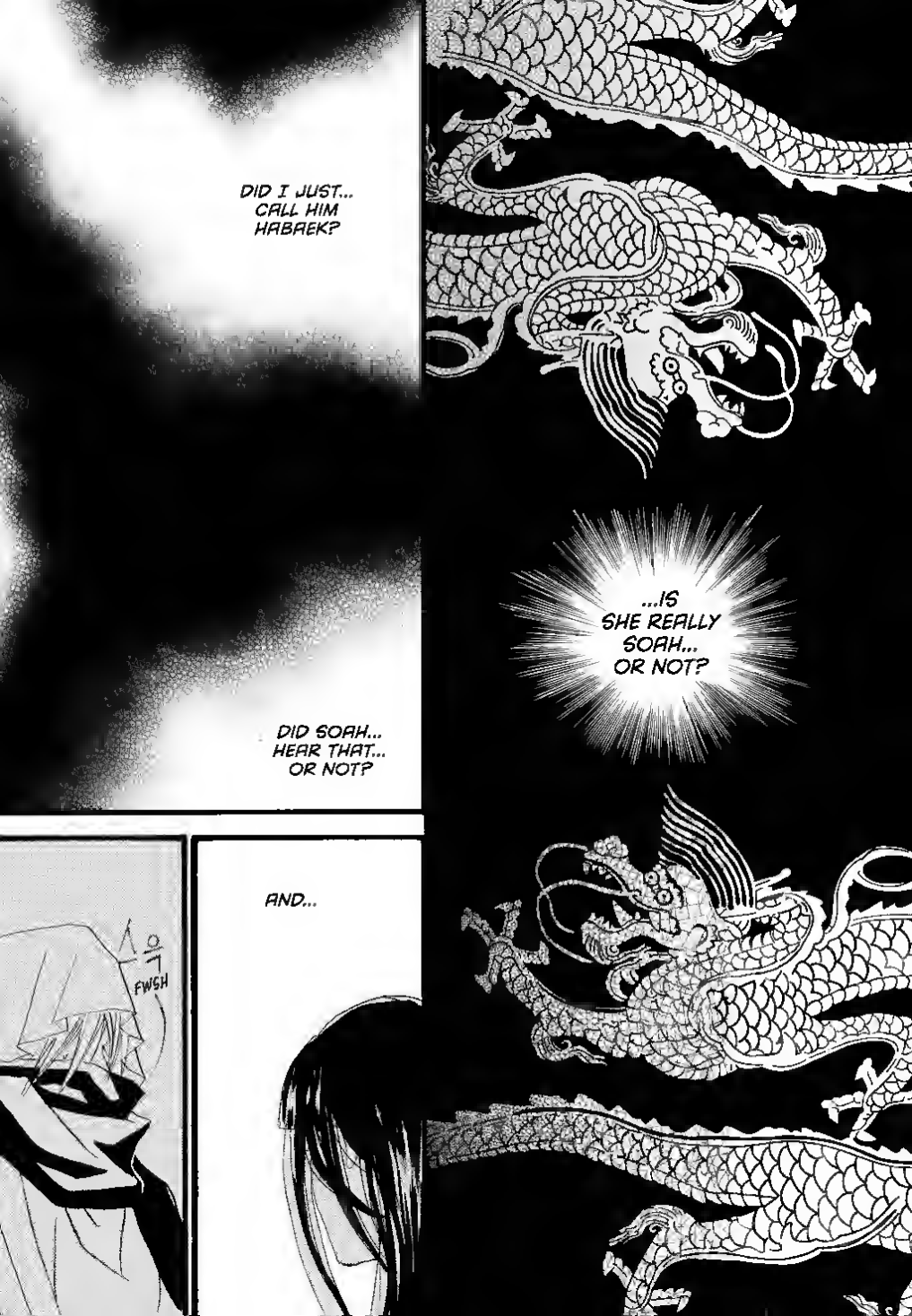
HUYE.
HABAEK-NIM...

ARE YOU ASKING ME, NOW...
...OR ORDERING ME?
TUG
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF I *REFUSE?* ARE YOU GOING TO CUT ME?

PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS, HABAEK-NIM.
I RECEIVED AN ORDER FROM THE EMPEROR TO PROTECT HER AT ANY COST.
SHNKK
HABAEK!
THAT GUY IS...

HE WAS WITH HIS MAJESTY THAT NIGHT.
!!

HABAEK! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU--
HE MADE EYE CONTACT WITH ME, BUT HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
WHOSE SIDE IS HE ON?
OOPS... WAIT...

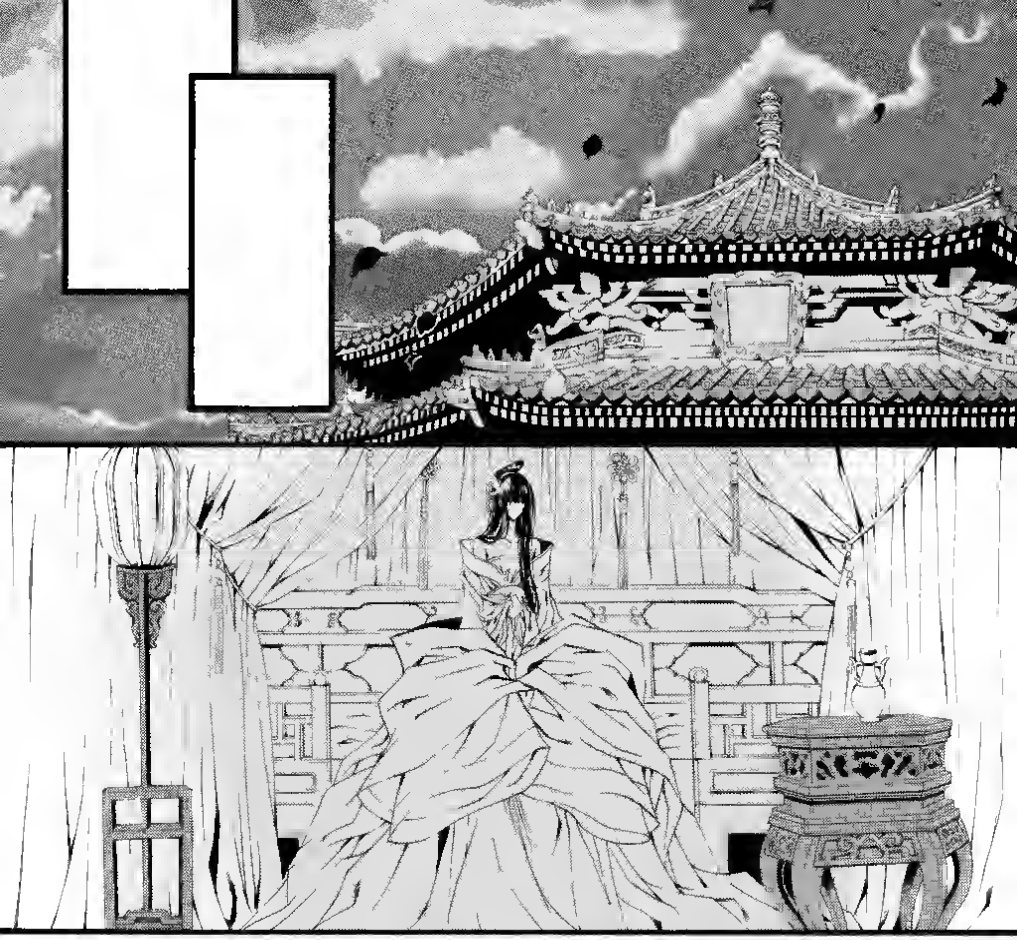

DID I JUST... CALL HIM HABAEK?
...IS SHE REALLY SOAH... OR NOT?
DID SOAH... HEAR THAT... OR NOT?
AND...
FWSH

HEY, MUI...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE CHANGED QUITE A BIT.
YUUK
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED, IF IT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR MAJESTY.

YOU CAN TAKE HER WITH YOU, HWYE.
SURE.
I'M GOING TO CALL IT AN EVENING, THEN.
FWOOSHAAA

THAT'S STRANGE. WASN'T HUYE WORKING FOR *YOU* BEFORE?
BEFORE HE CAME TO ME...
...HE WAS WORKING FOR HIS MAJESTY.

SO, OF COURSE, HE'S FOLLOWING HIS FIRST MASTER'S ORDERS.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT *SOAH?*
YOU HAVE TO DO *SOMETHING.*



"PLEASE LET HER GO, HABAEK-NIM."

HABAEK!
YOU DIDN'T FOLLOW THE ORDER NOT TO LEAVE YOUR ROOM WITHOUT MY APPROVAL.
흠칫
FLINCH
SO--DID YOU MEET THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN MISSING?
WHICH ONE WAS IT? HABAEK? MUI?

OH, WAIT--
SHOULD I SAY
BOTH?
THEY'RE THE
SAME PERSON,
SO IT'S BETTER
TO SAY THAT YOU
FOUND *BOTH.*

DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU *ANOTHER* STORY? SOMETHING ELSE YOU'VE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT?
DO YOU WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER BRIDES WHO WERE SACRIFICED TO HABAEK IN THE PAST?

THIS IS HABAEK, THE WATER GOD.
"THE TRULY SELFISH BEINGS ARE HUMANS, DON'T YOU THINK?
"YOU'D BETTER KNOW YOUR PLACE NOW."
"MY NAME IS MUI."
WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?
WEREN'T YOU AFRAID OF HABAEK?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW...
...WHAT HAPPENED TO HABAEK'S PREVIOUS BRIDE?

SHE MADE A PROMISE TO HABAEK...
...THAT SHE WOULD COME BACK *NO MATTER WHAT*...NO MATTER WHAT FORM THAT MIGHT BE.

HABAEK WAS SURE THAT YOU WERE THE ONE SHE'D TURNED INTO AND THAT SHE'D RETURNED TO HIM.
IF HE HADN'T LOST ALL MEMORY OF YOU, AT THE MOMENT IT WAS REVEALED THAT YOU WERE *NOT* REALLY NAKBIN...
...HE WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU, JUST LIKE HE KILLED THE OTHER BRIDES YOUR PEOPLE SENT TO HIM.

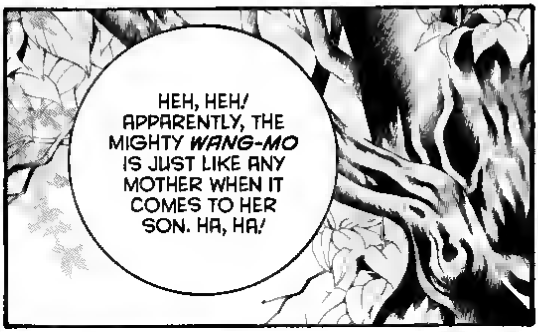
HEH, HEH, HEH! I'M SURE THAT HIS LOVE COULD EASILY BE ECLIPSED BY HIS FURY AND HATRED.
IN THE END...WITH THAT HAND...

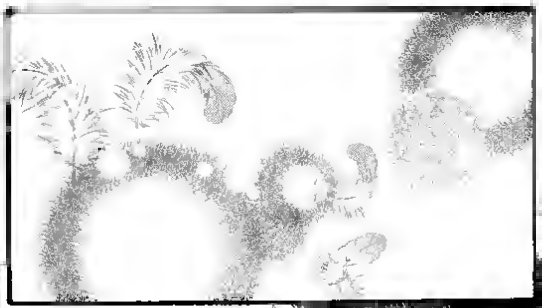
YOU WILL END UP KILLING THE MAN YOU LOVE.

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, *CHEONG-JO.*
YOU'VE GROWN. BY THE WAY, WHERE IS *WANG-MO-NIM?*

WHAT MADE YOU COME TO SEE ME?

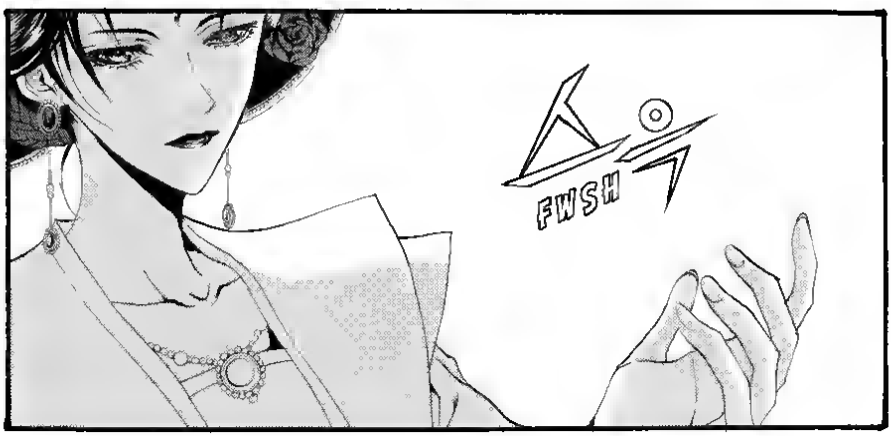
LET ME GUESS-- IT MUST BE ABOUT HABAEK...


HEH, HEH! APPARENTLY, THE MIGHTY *WANG-MO* IS JUST LIKE ANY MOTHER WHEN IT COMES TO HER SON. HA, HA!



삐
PIKREE!
삐
PIKREE!
삐

삐조롱~
PREE!
삐삐
CHEE!
삐조롱
CHEE!
PIKREE!

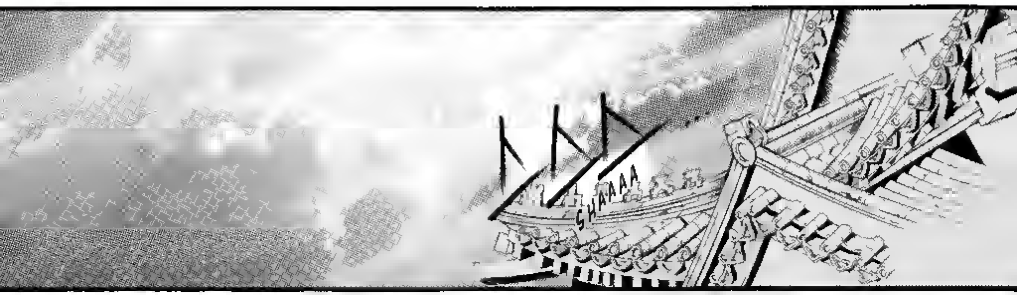

FWSH

푸드득
FWUP FWUPPA
파닥 파닥
WUPPA WUPPA
OH, SHADOW BIRD! ARE YOU SENDING HER TO THE PALACE?
WELCOME. YOU'RE LATE.
HA, HA, HA! I AM LATE BECAUSE I WAS ENJOYING THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY OF GON-RYOON.

I APPRECIATE THAT YOU ACCEPTED MY DIFFICULT REQUEST FROM THE OTHER DAY.
HA, HAAA! WHO ON EARTH WOULD DARE REFUSE A REQUEST FROM *WANG-MO-NIM*?
SHUFF
SHUFF
I DID IT BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE RIGHT.
YOU DID IT FOR HABAEK, DIDN'T YOU?

I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO AVOID ANY FUTURE *MISFORTUNES* IF WE CHANGED THE PARTNER HE WAS DESTINED FOR...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE IS *NO WAY* WE CAN CHANGE HIS DESTINY.
HOW MUCH MORE PAIN SHOULD THE BOY ENDURE?
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HABAEK. ALL WE SHOULD DO NOW IS WATCH THE DESTINY HE CHOOSES UNFOLD, THE FUTURE *HE* CREATES...
ALSO, I LIED TO HIM, AS YOU ASKED ME TO. I TOLD HIM *THE GIRL* WAS HIS DESTINED PARTNER...
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, WANG-MO-NIM. THE BOY IS CHOOSING *HIS OWN* DESTINY.
...SO HE SAID THAT HE WOULD *BREAK* WITH DESTINY.

WSHAAAAH
HABAEK-NIM...?
HIS MAJESTY SAID HE IS THROWING A PARTY FOR YOU.
LET HIM KNOW THAT I DON'T NEED IT.
HE SAID YOU MUST ATTEND THIS PARTY.

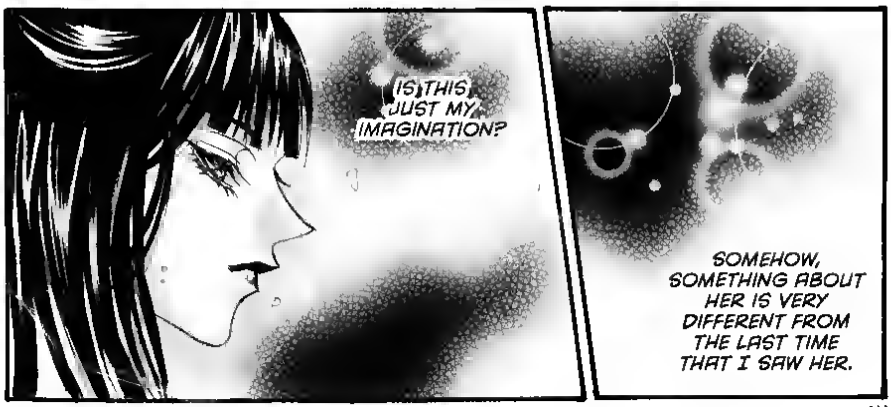


FWOOOSH

THIS SCENT IS...

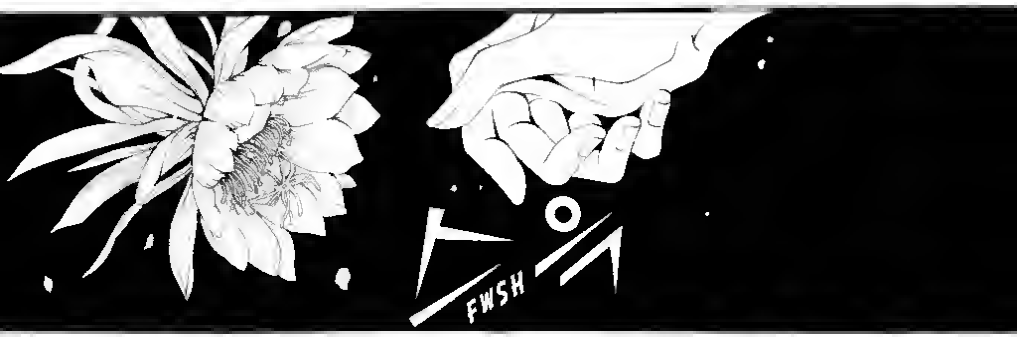
WHERE DOES THIS SCENT COME FROM?
딸깍!
KTAKK
THIS IS...
...IT'S WOL-HA-MI-IN.
?!
?!

WOL-HA-MI-IN?
YOU'RE LUCKY. IT IS NOT EASY TO *SEE* WOL-HA-MI-IN.


(IS) THIS JUST MY IMAGINATION?
SOMEHOW, SOMETHING ABOUT HER IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST TIME THAT I SAW HER.

YOU CAN SEE THIS FLOWER ONE DAY A YEAR, ONLY AT NIGHT.
IT BLOOMS IN THE EVENING AND DIES IN THE MORNING, SO SOME PEOPLE CALL IT "SOLITUDE OF THE NIGHT."
ISN'T IT A PERFECT FLOWER FOR A MOONLIT NIGHT LIKE THIS?

SOLITUDE OF
THE NIGHT...


FWSH

NO! DON'T
PICK IT!
NO? WHY
NOT?

THE MALE AND FEMALE FLOWERS BLOOM AT THE SAME PLACE. IF YOU PULL ONE FLOWER, THE OTHER DIES AS WELL.
ONE OF ITS NAMES IS "THE LOVE ONLY FOR EACH OTHER."
BUT ANOTHER NAME FOR THIS FLOWER IS MY FAVORITE.
WHAT IS IT?
"EMPTY LOVE..."

WSHAAA
HABAEK-NIM, THE PARTY WILL START MOMENTARILY.
OKAY. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

CAN WE MEET AGAIN?

AND...
MY NAME
IS SOAH.
SOAH...
WE'LL SEE EACH
OTHER AGAIN
SOON, WHETHER
YOU WANT TO
OR NOT.

NOBODY CAN STOP THIS NOW.
THE WHEEL HAS ALREADY STARTED SPINNING.
"I TOLD WANG-MO NOT TO WORRY, BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING SORRY FOR YOU, HABAEK.
"I WISH I WERE NOT ABLE TO SEE IT... IT IS TOO CRUEL TO KNOW THE FUTURE."

WHAT DO YOU THINK, HABAEK?
ISN'T THE SCENERY AT MY PALACE HERE AS BEAUTIFUL AS SUGUK'S?
IT'S INDEED BEAUTIFUL, YOUR MAJESTY. MOREOVER, I'M HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME. IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.

PLEASE ENJOY IT. THIS PARTY IS FOR YOU AND YOUR BEAUTIFUL WIFE.
BY THE WAY, I'M VERY HAPPY TO FINALLY MEET HABAEK'S BRIDE, WHO HAS BEEN HIDDEN FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
LIKEWISE. IT'S MY HONOR TO MEET YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
HEH, HEH! AS I WAS INTRODUCED TO HABAEK'S BRIDE, I GUESS IT'S MY TURN TO INTRODUCE SOMEONE TO ALL OF YOU.

I TOLD YOU THAT I WOULD INTRODUCE YOU TO A BEAUTIFUL BIRD I FOUND, AND THEN COMPLETELY FORGOT TO DO IT.
I THINK THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO MAKE THE INTRODUCTION, SINCE WE HAVE A BIG ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE, AS WELL.
?!
HERE IS THE PRETTY BIRD I FOUND DURING MY VISIT TO SUGUK THE OTHER DAY.
HERE SHE IS. LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO GREET EACH OTHER.

SHE IS GOING TO BE HUYE'S BRIDE.

"Empty love . . ."

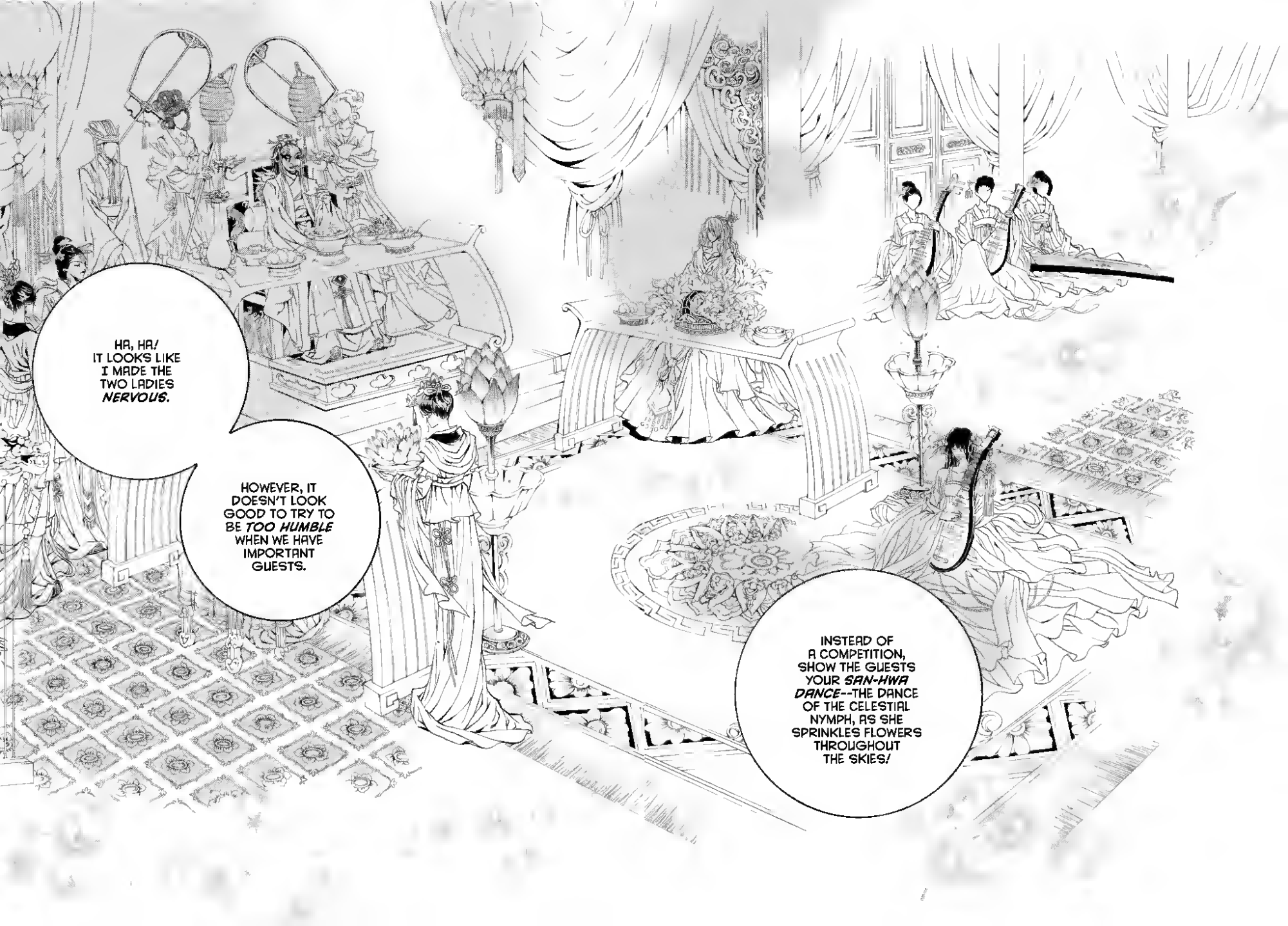
WHEN CROSSING THE MOUNTAIN... ON HORSE-BACK... CLOUDS DOT THE SKY...
디리
AND MOONLIGHT SHINES... UPON GANG-JUNG PALACE.

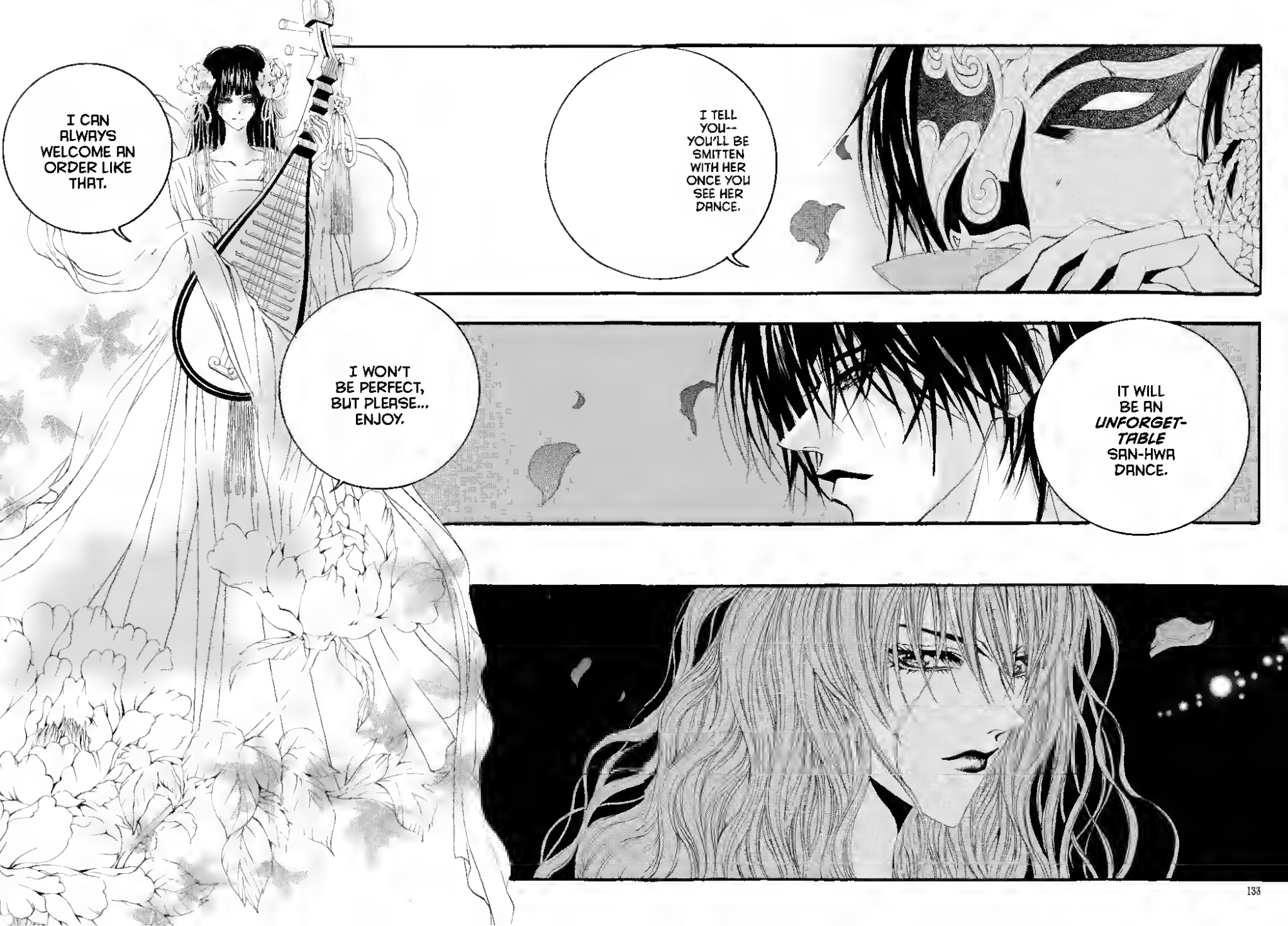
THE GIRL FROM THE LEE FAMILY IS A WISE AND GOOD GIRL... THE BOY FROM THE JANG FAMILY FELL IN LOVE WITH HER... UNDER THE WINDING AND FLOWING MOONLIGHT... THEY FELL IN LOVE.
THAT IS THE "GANG-JUNG LOVE SONG."
BEAUTIFUL SONG, ISN'T IT? AND THE SINGER IS JUST AS BEAUTIFUL. I AM SURE SHE AND HUYE ARE GOING TO MAKE A PERFECT COUPLE.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW.
HA, HA, HA! ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOUR BRIDE IS BETTER?
SHE'S A GOOD SINGER, BUT HER *DANCING* IS AMAZING, TOO. AH--THAT'S RIGHT! HOW ABOUT THIS...
푸르르

YOUR BRIDE AND HUYE'S FUTURE BRIDE WILL HAVE A DANCE COMPETITION.
DOESN'T THAT SOUND *FUN?*

WHAT DOES THE BRIDE THINK? IT'S GOING TO BE GRAND ENTERTAINMENT.
AH, I...
YOUR MAJESTY, WHEN YOU COMPLIMENT MY LOUSY DANCING, IT EMBARRASSES ME.
PLEASE TAKE THE ORDER BACK.


HA, HA! IT LOOKS LIKE I MADE THE TWO LADIES *NERVOUS*.
HOWEVER, IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD TO TRY TO BE *TOO HUMBLE* WHEN WE HAVE IMPORTANT GUESTS.
INSTEAD OF A COMPETITION, SHOW THE GUESTS YOUR *SAN-HWA DANCE*--THE DANCE OF THE CELESTIAL NYMPH, AS SHE SPRINKLES FLOWERS THROUGHOUT THE SKIES!


I CAN ALWAYS WELCOME AN ORDER LIKE THAT.
I WON'T BE PERFECT, BUT PLEASE... ENJOY.
I TELL YOU-- YOU'LL BE SMITTEN WITH HER ONCE YOU SEE HER DANCE.
IT WILL BE AN *UNFORGET-TABLE* SAN-HWA DANCE.

짤랑
SHA-
SHIING

WHY ARE YOU MISSING THE PARTY, HUYE?
IT FEELS LIKE HIS MAJESTY IS PLANNING SOMETHING WITHOUT ME.

WHAT IS HE TRYING TO DO WITH SOAH? WHAT I GAVE HIM WAS JUST A MEDICINE MADE OF YO-CHO... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HABAEK LOST *ONLY* HIS MEMORIES OF SOAH...
IT'S ALSO GETTING HARDER AND HARDER FOR ME TO GET A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH HIS MAJESTY...
DOES THIS MEAN THAT HE DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE?

HMPF! WELL, OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE ME ALL THE DETAILS, BUT I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY.
PLEASE ANSWER THIS ONE QUESTION...

IS SHE *REALLY* NAKBIN?

SHE IS NOT NAKBIN.
SHE'S JUST A *PUPPET* TO BE THROWN AWAY AFTER BEING USED...

...JUST LIKE YOU.
WHAT?
DON'T ACT LIKE A GOOBAN-DO.*
*GOOBAN-DO. A MONSTER THAT RESEMBLES AN OLD, UGLY WOMAN WHO PUTS ON HEAVY MAKEUP AND LOOKS LIKE A GHOST
ALL YOU SHOULD DO IS JUST WATCH FROM AFAR, LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DOING.

FWUP FWUPPA

GOOD JOB, SOAH. THAT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DANCE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, YOUR MAJESTY. I FEEL EMBARRASSED ABOUT MY LACK OF SKILLS.

NO, IT WAS BETTER THAN EXPECTED. IT SURELY WAS A WONDERFUL SAN-HWA DANCE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, HABAEK? OR ARE YOU GOING TO SAY "I DON'T KNOW" AGAIN?

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DANCE.
IT WAS LIKE I WAS WATCHING A DANCING *WOL-HA-MI-IN*...

!!
WOL-HA-MI-IN... WHAT A PERFECT WAY TO DESCRIBE IT!
VERY NICE, SORH. YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM NOW.
SHFF
PLEASE EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY...

HEY, YOU!
AND YOU ARE...?
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE LOST ANY MEMORIES. WHY ARE YOU PRETENDING THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO GET HABAEK'S ATTENTION, BUT YOUR SILLY, PEDESTRIAN TRICKS WON'T WORK.
HABAEK ISN'T INTERESTED IN A *HUMAN*--ESPECIALLY A WORTHLESS ONE LIKE YOU--SO YOU'D BETTER KNOCK IT OFF...
...BECAUSE *I AM HABAEK'S BRIDE.*

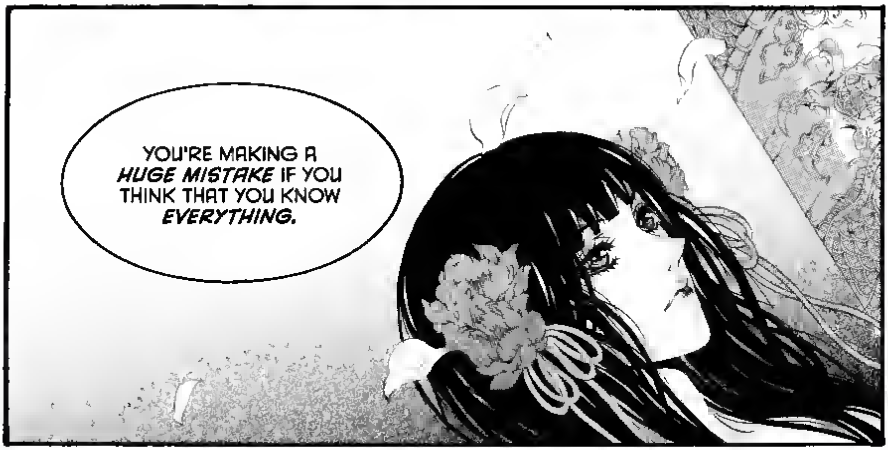
WELL, THEN... DO YOU WANT TO *COMPETE* WITH ME, LIKE HIS MAJESTY ASKED US TO EARLIER?
SURE-- LET'S SEE WHO'S GOING TO WIN HABAEK'S HEART.

HMPH! HOW ARROGANT! WHY WOULD I COMPETE WITH *YOU*?
YOU SEEM TO HAVE HIS MAJESTY'S SUPPORT, BUT WITHOUT HIM, YOU'RE NOTHING.
DON'T WORRY. I'M SMART ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND MY POSITION.

ALSO, I KNOW WHAT NAKBIN MEANS TO HABAEK. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BEAT HER.
HUH. I'M GLAD YOU KNOW THAT.
HOWEVER, *YOU'RE NOT NAKBIN.*
HAS HABAEK CALLED YOU BY HER NAME EVEN ONCE?
AM I WRONG, *YEO-WA?*
.....

휘익
HWSH
YOU ARROGANT BITCH!
콱
GRAB
!!
!!
LET GO!
파악
WHPP

HFF! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS.


YOU'RE MAKING A *HUGE MISTAKE* IF YOU THINK THAT YOU KNOW *EVERYTHING.*

I'LL TAKE THAT CHALLENGE.

"IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL WIND UP MISERABLE AND ALONE-- NOT ME."
.....
SWAY

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME, LYNN?
IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
"IT WAS LIKE I WAS WATCHING A DANCING WOL-HA-MI-IN..."
HE LIED TO ME AND FORGOT ABOUT ME, AND I HATE HIM SO MUCH...BUT...
I HATE MYSELF MORE BECAUSE THOSE MEANINGLESS WORDS MAKE ME HAPPY.

I'M FINDING SOAH TO BE MORE USEFUL THAN I EXPECTED.
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD GET SCARED AND CRY THE WHOLE TIME.
THIS IS GOING TO BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I THOUGHT WOULD PLAY OUT, BUT IT'S ALL GETTING MORE INTERESTING.

I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD HUMANS PRETTY WELL, BUT THEY CAN STILL BE COMPLETELY PUZZLING EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
DON'T YOU AGREE, HUYE?
YES...

.....
!!
GRAB
FWUP
FWUP
KRIKKK
VZZNNN
YOU SHOULDN'T SNEAK AROUND LIKE THAT.

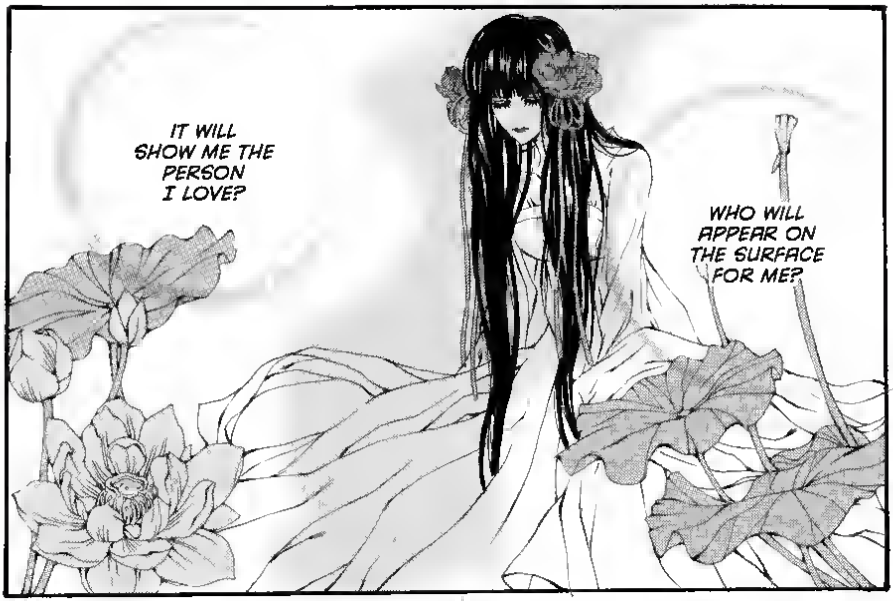
WAS THAT SEO WANG-MO'S SHADOW BIRD? SHE'S REALLY PUSHING IT...
WHOOSH
!!
THE SHADOW BIRD!
WANG-MO-NIM?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NO,
NOTHING.
HUYE...
HE FINALLY--
THE EMPEROR ORDERED ME TO BRING SOAH-NIM TO HIM.
DID HE?
WHAT'S THE OCCASION?

WELL, I'M NOT SURE...
I JUST RECEIVED AN URGENT *ORDER* TO TAKE YOU TO HIM.
NO, LYNN. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT SORH-NIM SHOULD COME *ALONE.*
LEAVE THE BOY AND FOLLOW ME, PLEASE.

WAIT FOR ME HERE, LYNN.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
.....

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
THIS IS THE MIRROR POND.
MIRROR POND...?
THIS POND CAN SHOW YOU THE IMAGE OF THE PERSON YOU LOVE, INSTEAD OF YOUR OWN REFLECTION. HOWEVER, IF YOU *FALL IN*, YOU'LL BE STUCK ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR FOREVER, SO YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
DON'T YOU WANT TO LOOK, SOAH-NIM?


IT WILL SHOW ME THE PERSON I LOVE?
WHO WILL APPEAR ON THE SURFACE FOR ME?

FWSH
SHOVE
WHA--?!

WHO--?!
KYYAAAA!!
첨벙
SPLOOOSH
.....
WHY...?
WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME?

SHWOO
!!
WEEHSTH

저벅 저벅 저벅
KTOK KTOK KTOK
HELLO, MURA.
OH-- BIRYEOM?
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BIRYEOM? DO YOU WANT TO BE CAUGHT AND KILLED BY HIS MAJESTY?
GO BACK TO YOUR REALM-- RIGHT NOW!

NO.
WHAT?
I WON'T WITHOUT YOU.
COME WITH ME, MURA.
DON'T BE STUPID. I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST DO HERE.

MURA... *YOU* WERE THE ONE WHO CAUSED HABAEK TO LOSE HIS MEMORY... YOU MADE HIM FALL IN LOVE WITH *YEO-WA*, DIDN'T YOU?
...WHAT?

I FIGURED IT OUT WHEN YOHEE SAID THAT HABAEK WAS ACTING STRANGELY. I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THOSE *WEEDS* OF YOURS THAT COULD CHANGE HIM.
WHY DID YOU DO IT? THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN GET IF HABAEK FALLS IN LOVE WITH YEO-WA.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER, MURA? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ASKED *ME* TO PROTECT *HIM.* BUT WHY--
NO!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG! WHAT HE TOOK WASN'T MY YO-CHO!

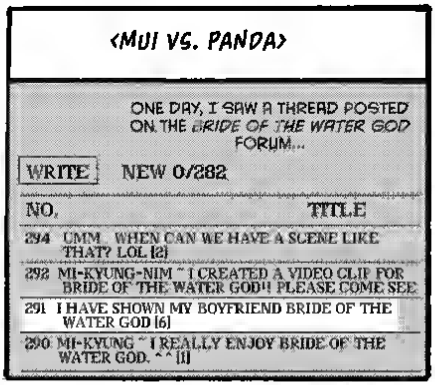
THE *MEDICINE* I GAVE TO NAKBIN WAS NOT SOMETHING TO MAKE SOMEONE FALL IN LOVE OR LOSE MEMORIES!
IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE MEDICINAL GRASS!

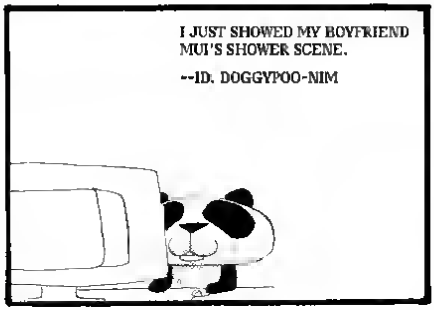
YOU SEE?
I TOLD YOU
TO TRUST ME...
NO MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENED.

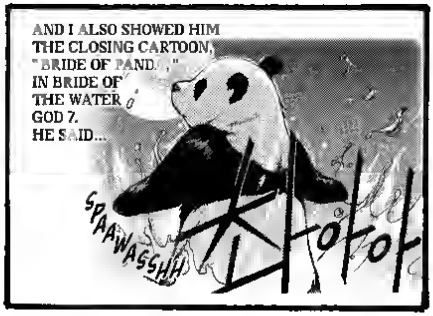
"It was a
beautiful dance.
It was
like I was watching
a dancing
Wŏl-ha-mi-in . . ."

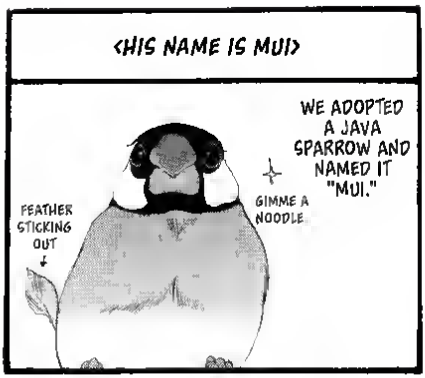
MI-GAENG'S CLOSING ☆ DIARY ☆

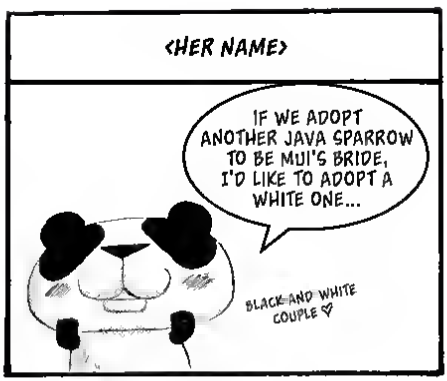
("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME)

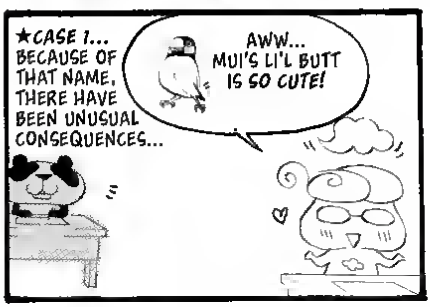

<MUI VS. PANDA>
ONE DAY, I SAW A THREAD POSTED ON THE BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD FORUM...
WRITE
NEW 0/282
NO. TITLE
294 UMM... WHEN CAN WE HAVE A SCENE LIKE THAT? LOL [2]
293 MI-KYUNG-NIM ~ I CREATED A VIDEO CLIP FOR BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD!! PLEASE COME SEE
291 I HAVE SHOWN MY BOYFRIEND BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD [6]
290 MI-KYUNG ~ I REALLY ENJOY BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD. ^^ [1]

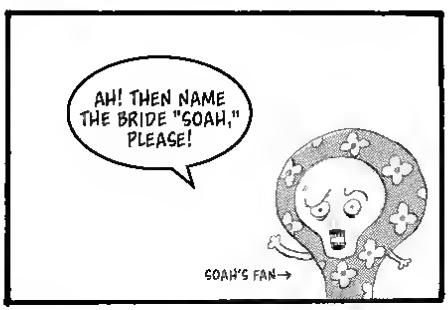


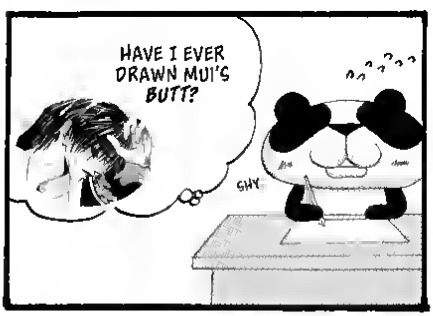


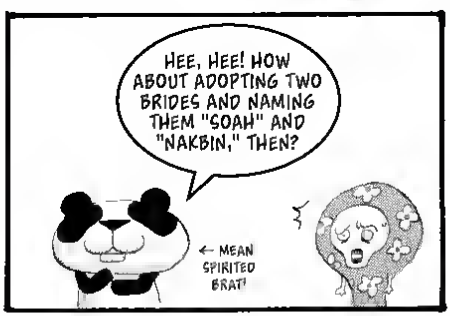

<HIS NAME IS MUI>
WE ADOPTED A JAVA SPARROW AND NAMED IT "MUI."
GIMME A NOODLE
FEATHER STICKING OUT

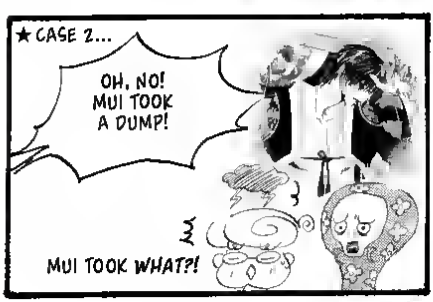

<HER NAME>
IF WE ADOPT ANOTHER JAVA SPARROW TO BE MUI'S BRIDE, I'D LIKE TO ADOPT A WHITE ONE...
BLACK-AND WHITE COUPLE ♡


★CASE 1... BECAUSE OF THAT NAME, THERE HAVE BEEN UNUSUAL CONSEQUENCES...
AWW... MUI'S LI'L BUTT IS SO CUTE!


AH! THEN NAME THE BRIDE "SOAH," PLEASE!
SOAH'S FAN→


HAVE I EVER DRAWN MUI'S BUTT?
SHY


HEE, HEE! HOW ABOUT ADOPTING TWO BRIDES AND NAMING THEM "SOAH" AND "NAKBIN," THEN?
← MEAN SPIRITED BRAT!


★CASE 2...
OH, NO! MUI TOOK A DUMP!
MUI TOOK WHAT?!

NO! "HUYE" SHOULD BE HIS BRIDE'S NAME!
SHE'S INTO THE YAOI/ BOYS LOVE SCENE→

Mi-Kyung Yung

I think that I'm very lucky. I feel especially lucky to have met so many good people recently. I'm not sure if they feel the same way about me, but I hope that I'm remembered fondly. I'd like to thank Yuni, who has been working with me for a long time. I had a lot of fun working with her on this volume. I hope that I continue to meet great people in the future.

—Mi-Kyung Yun

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na eu Ji-gu Bang-moon gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

8

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

Ambiguous loyalties, vengeful old flames, and the schemes of jealous gods fill *Bride of the Water God* Volume 8 with heartbreak and intrigue! After Soah is kidnapped from the magical land of Suguk, Habaek—the cursed, lovelorn water god—is forced to reconcile long-suppressed feelings for Nakbin, his dead bride, with strong, new yearnings for Soah, his new human bride. Using shape-shifting ploys and magical charms, the emperor of the gods' mystical realms has convinced Habaek that Nakbin is still alive and deserving of his full devotion. Will Habaek be able to see through the emperor's cruel deceptions before Soah is lost to him forever?

Writer/artist Mi-Kyung Yun's *Bride of the Water God* series has surprised voracious romance readers with its breathtaking artwork, intricate plot threads, and multifaceted characters. *Bride of the Water God* is a best-selling series in the United States and Korea, and creator Mi-Kyung Yun received the "Best New Artist" award in 2004 from the esteemed Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization. *Bride of the Water God* has also begun a run as a Korean television series!

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANHWA/FANTASY

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